TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 17, 1997 LB 882

exact numbers to put them in perspective, but I understand Nebraska uses a higher percentage of probation than many other states now. We are using that. It's not that we're not using it, but the incarceration work camp is an attempt to have some other method of trying to get these young people, if that's going to be 30 or 40 too, great, back on track, and that's why I support this incarceration work camp at this point. It's an effort to try to do something, and I will go into some of the other areas that we are doing. I know it's not on Senator Beutler's amendment, but we are spending millions in just the last year trying to do something about the juvenile issue, and we...I can give you those numbers. Once, again, I will do it, I guess at the proper time, but we are...we have community-based programs going in all across the state, trying to do something at the early stages of development of a young person's life to get them away from that. I do not know... I do not even pretend to know or admit to know the extent of the drug problem in this state, but it is quite severe, and perhaps criminalizing isn't the action we should do. But I will tell you, we're going to have a big discussion on there and some others. I was very interested in what's happening and what the New York Times article said. At this point, we are not replacing the DARE funds, the federal funds that are going away; \$500,000. Perhaps the case can be made that they should be there. But the dilemma we have, we are doing a lot in that area, sixth grade, I've been a proponent of that, but we're not having the follow-up through the years beyond that into high school where ...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...peer pressure is so terrific on our young people. What are we going to do about the drugs in this; methamphetamine, I understand, is a very, very serious problem in this state, and I don't know all the answers, and I don't think government can provide them all, and that's, I guess, I'm expressing the frustration as to what those answers should be, and I'm wide open to some answers, and I like to think that some of the things the Legislature has done, as a massive comprehenpries...henphrie...I'll get it, comprehensive program is part of that answer; school to work, economic incentives, expanding our economic base in Nebraska, which I think is working via LB 775. I'll bring another dimension to this, but I